



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

BLACK LEGION

PART # 3 of 3

PAGES AVAILABLE THIS PART 202



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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CULTIST TO BE EXTRADITED

COLUMBUS, O., Aug. 28 (International News Service).—Gov. Martin L. Davey today signed the formal papers for the extradition to Michigan of Virgil H. (Bert) Effinger, of Lima, accused Black Legion commander.

The Executive gave his approval to two requisitions presented by Michigan authorities for the extradition of Effinger to answer charges growing out of the Black Legion investigation at Detroit.

Effinger, who disappeared Tuesday while his extradition hearing was in progress, still was missing today, but authorities were inclined to believe he would give himself up to Allen County authorities at Lima.

His attorney, Clarence Miller, had announced earlier that Effinger would appear in event Davey approved the extradition and would immediately start proceedings for a writ of habeas corpus.

NEW YORK TIMES

AUG 28 1936

61-9398-A

Fugitive From Cult Hearing Sought

*Reputed Chief of Black
Legion at Large;
Hunt Pushed*

COLUMBUS, O., Aug. 26 (U.P.). Virgil H. Effinger, reputed Black Legion national commander sought on fugitive warrants, remained at large tonight more than a day after his flight during a recess in his extradition hearing.

Michigan authorities, seeking the electrical contractor charged in Detroit with criminal syndicalism and possession of bombs, learned that Effinger returned secretly to his home in Lima yesterday and arranged for distribution of Black Legion handbills.

As Ohio city and State police searched for Effinger today, Gov. Martin L. Davey postponed his decision on releasing him to Michigan in order to study the case further. It was indicated he might rule Friday.

DETROIT, Aug. 26 (I.N.S.).—Arthur Lupp, sr., reputed commander of the Black Legion in Michigan, and two of his alleged henchmen surrendered to police today. They had been sought since a one-man grand jury indicted them and 19 others on charges of criminal syndicalism last week. Surrendering with Lupp were Wilbur Robinson, alleged "brigadier general," and Frank Howard.

61-7398-A
WASH HERALD

AUG 27 1936

1. B. Jones
4

4 STATES HUNT FUGITIVE CHIEF OF BLACK KLAN

Ohio Delays Extradition
of Effinger but Seems
Favorable

3 LEADERS GIVE UP ON DETROIT CHARGES

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Aug. 26 (AP).—Amid strong indications that approval of Michigan authorities' request for his extradition to face charges of criminal syndicalism and possession of bombs would be recommended, police of four States watched highways and trains today for Virgil F. (Bert) Effinger.

Meantime, Governor Martin L. Davey decided to take the request under advisement for a few days.

Effinger, described by Detroit Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea as the national commander of the hooded and robed Black Legion, had dropped completely out of sight during a recess of yesterday's extradition hearing.

Lima Police Criticized

His wife told Lima police early today he was in Columbus and Franklin County (Columbus). Deputy Sheriff E. D. Van Horn and Arthur Popiel, a Detroit investigator, left Lima immediately for the capital. She refused to say where he might be, but they said they would try the address of a relative.

However, a Michigan official, voicing criticism of the police of Effinger's home town of Lima, Ohio, for failing to arrest him, said he probably had gone to Pennsylvania or Illinois to stay with friends.

The official, Assistant Attorney General Guy W. Jensen, asked State police of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois to watch for him and pick him up as a fugitive from justice on separate warrants sworn out here and in Lima.

Three Surrender in Detroit

DETROIT, Aug. 26 (AP).—Arthur F. Lupp Sr., admitted State organizer for the Black Legion; Wilbur Robinson, a brigadier general in the hooded order, and N. Ray Markland surrendered today to answer a charge of criminal syndicalism.

Markland, former Mayor of suburban Highland Park, and Lupp were charged with conspiring to kill Martin H. Zink, Highland Park Commissioner, and Arthur L. Kingsley, publisher of the community newspaper there, as well as with syndicalism.

Markland's surrender left all twenty-two defendants in the syndicalism case accounted for except Virgil F. Effinger, Lima, Ohio, contractor who is a fugitive, and Isaac (Fegleg) White, former Detroit policeman.

Accused Man Held Sane

A commission appointed to inquire into the sanity of Harvey Davis, Black Legion colonel accused of leading the group charged with kidnaping and killing Charles A. Poole last May 2, reported today that Davis is sane and able to stand trial.

The trial of Davis and eleven others in the Poole case is scheduled to start in Circuit Court next Monday.

61-7398-A

New York Post

AUG 26 1936

B. E. Johnson

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Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Coughman
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Gurnea	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Hendon	.....
Mr. Jones	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Nease	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

61-7398-A

Black Legion Head, Turned in by Wife, Sought in 4 States

Columbus, Ohio, Aug. 26 (AP)—Amid strong indications that approval of Michigan authorities' request for his extradition to face charges of criminal syndicalism and possession of bombs would be recommended, police of four States watched highways and trains today for stocky, cigar-smoking Virgil F. (Bert) Effinger.

Effinger, described by Detroit Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea as the national commander of the hooded and robed Black Legion, dropped completely out of sight during a recess of yesterday's extradition hearing.

His wife told Lima police early today he was in Columbus and two officers left Lima immediately for the capital. A Michigan official, voicing criticism of the police of Effinger's home town of Lima for failing to arrest him, said he probably had gone to Pennsylvania or Illinois to stay with friends.

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

61-73981-A

BLACK LEGION 'CHIEF' SUDDENLY VANISHES

*Lima, Ohio, Man Is Sought by
Police of 4 States After Quitting
an Extradition Hearing.*

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Aug. 25 (AP).—A four-State police search for Virgil F. Effinger began tonight on the heels of his disappearance from an extradition hearing.

Effinger, a Lima (Ohio) electrical contractor, named by Duncan C. McRea, Detroit prosecutor, as national commander of the mysterious Black Legion, walked out of the hearing just as Franklin County deputies sought to detain him for Michigan authorities who have charged him with criminal syndicalism and possession of bombs.

The deputies had a warrant for him, granted to the Michigan authorities by the Columbus Municipal Court.

The State highway patrol immediately broadcast a general alarm calling for his arrest "as a fugitive from justice." Guy W. Jensen, Assistant Attorney General of Michigan, disclosed that he had asked State police of Indiana, Illinois and Pennsylvania also to be on the lookout for Effinger.

"He has friends in Illinois and Pennsylvania," Mr. Jensen said, "and I believe he's gone to one or the other State."

Late today Charles Leasure, secretary to Governor Davey, indicated strongly that he would recommend approval of the Michigan request for Effinger's extradition.

At Effinger's home at Lima information was given both that he was there and later that he was not. Lima police stationed a squad near the home.

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Jones	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

61-1397 A

41

POLICE HUNT OHIO BLACK LEGION CHIEF

EFFINGER IS SOUGHT ON 2 WARRANTS

Lima Man Disappears From
Extradition Hearing as
Detroit Gains Ground
in Removal Fight.

STATE PATROL MOVES
TO CATCH 'FUGITIVE'

Ohioan Accused on Basis of
Michigan Bill Charging
Bomb Possession.

BULLETIN.

LIMA, O., Aug. 26 (Wednes-
day).—(AP)—Mrs. Virgil F.
Efinger told police early today
her husband, who disappeared
during an extradition hearing
yesterday in Columbus, was in
Columbus and two policemen
left immediately for there.

Mr. Nathan	
Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Jones	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	
Mr. Gandy	

Handwritten: *BY* (with checkmark), *g*, *WFO*

61-7398-A

COLUMBUS, O., Aug. 25—(AP)—

The State Highway Patrol tonight broadcast a general alarm for the arrest of Virgil F. (Bert) Effinger, named by Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea of Detroit as national commander of the hooded Black Legion.

The broadcast followed by a few hours Effinger's disappearance from an apparently unfavorable extradition hearing just as Franklin County (Columbus) deputies sought to detain him for Michigan authorities, who have charged him with criminal syndicalism and possession of bombs.

Highway patrol radio headquarters said the broadcast, calling for Effinger's arrest "as a fugitive from justice," was made on request of sheriff's deputies.

Obtain Two Warrants.

Michigan officials, here for the extradition hearing, obtained the warrant in Columbus Municipal Court as Charles S. Leasure, secretary to Gov. Martin L. Davey, overruled numerous technical objections of Effinger's counsel to the Detroit extradition papers and then indicated strongly that he would recommend approval of the Michigan requisition.

The governor's office announced shortly afterward that a formal decision would be made tomorrow.

Deputy Alfred Farrell of Detroit meanwhile went to Effinger's home city of Lima and swore out before the Municipal Court there a similar "fugitive from justice" warrant.

This second warrant was turned over to Lima police.

A squad of policemen was dispatched immediately to Effinger's home, with orders to remain there until Effinger appeared. The squad still was waiting there just before midnight.

Effinger's absence from the hearing here was noted after a recess.

At the hour-long first session, which began at noon, he sat and fanned himself with his straw hat while his attorney, Clarence C. Miller of Lima, argued against extradition.

He conferred frequently with his lawyers as they tried unsuccessfully to delay the hearing until they could procure alibi witnesses in the portly Effinger's behalf.

When the hearing was resumed, however, Effinger did not return to the Sovereigns committee room.

Search Columbus Hotels.

Franklin County (Columbus) sheriff's office attaches, directed by Deputy Henry Keely, waited in the State House corridors "to serve on Effinger the Columbus Municipal Court warrant, charging him as a fugitive wanted on a criminal syndicalism indictment in Detroit."

When Effinger had not appeared an hour after the hearing was resumed, they made an intensive search of the State House and Columbus hotels but could not find the Lima contractor, once an unsuccessful candidate for sheriff in his home county.

John A. Ricca, assistant Detroit prosecutor, said the Columbus warrant was designed to expedite Effinger's removal to Detroit if the extradition warrant is granted by the governor.

Black Legion's Leader
Hunted by Ohio Police

Columbus, Ohio, Aug. 25 (P).—The State highway patrol broadcast a general alarm tonight for the arrest of Virgil F. (Bert) Effinger, named by Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea, of Detroit, as national commander of the hooded Black Legion. The broadcast followed by a few hours Effinger's disappearance from an apparently unfavorable extradition hearing just as Franklin County deputies sought to detain him for Michigan authorities, who have charged him with criminal syndicalism and possession of bombs.

61-7210-A

WASH. POST

AUG 26 1936

P. M. JONES

BLACK KLAN HEAD SOUGHT IN OHIO

Michigan Authorities Ask Gov.
Davey to Arrest and Re-
turn Alleged Leader

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Aug. 24 (AP).—Michigan authorities arrived today seeking to extradite Virgil F. Effinger of Lima, Ohio, named by Prosecutor Duncan McCrea of Detroit as national commander of the Black Legion.

Guy W. Jensen, Assistant Michigan Attorney General, and John H. Ricca, Assistant Detroit Prosecutor, headed a half dozen investigators of the hooded order's activities to present requisition papers to Governor Davey. Effinger is charged with criminal syndicalism and possession of bombs.

Effinger, one of twenty-two indicted last week on the basis of affidavits describing a plot to stage an uprising September 16 and overthrow the Government, has denied the charges. He said he would fight extradition.

New Indictments Slated

DETROIT, Aug. 24 (AP).—Additional indictments of members of the sinister Black Legion impended today while detectives pressed a hunt for eight of twenty-two persons named last Friday on charges of criminal syndicalism.

Thirteen of those indicted by Cir-

cuit Judge James E. Chene, who sat as a one-man Grand Jury, were in custody and aides of the Attorney-General were in Columbus, Ohio, to obtain an order for extradition from Lima, Ohio, of Virgil F. (Bert) Effinger, named in affidavits as national commander of the secret society.

Named by Dean

An affidavit by Dayton Dean, confessed Black Legion triggerman in the killing of Charles A. Poole which first exposed the activities of the terrorists, named Effinger as leader of a proposed plot to seize arsenals and Government buildings with an armed uprising September 16.

Effinger, an electrical contractor at Lima, has termed the charges nonsense and said he would oppose efforts to extradite him to Michigan. Lima police have declined to detain Effinger until warrants are approved by Governor Davey of Ohio.

Mr. Nathan	
Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Foxworth	✓
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Joseph	
Mr. Lester	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Tracy	
Miss Gandy	

61-7398 A

New York P

AUG 24 1936

WASH

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Myky St
Vincil*

Effinger Sought

COLUMBUS, O.—A formal request for the extradition of Virgil H. "Bert" Effinger of Lima, reputed head of the Black Legion, to face criminal charges in Michigan, was made to Gov. Martin L. Davey today. Michigan officials brought the extradition papers to Davey's office and conferred with his secretary in charge of extradition matters.

61-7398-A

WASH. NEWS

AUG 24 1935

W. A. JOSEPH

Mr. Nathan	
Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E.A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Jones	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	
Mr. Gandy	

gpr
W. J. C.

CULT 'LEADER' ASKED OF OHIO

COLUMBUS, Aug. 24 (By International News Service). — Gov. Martin L. Davey today was formally requested by five Michigan officials to permit extradition to that State of Virgil H. "Ben" Effinger, of Lima, alleged tri-State leader of the Black Legion.

The formal request, filed at Davey's office, asked that he permit Effinger's return to Detroit to face a warrant charging him with carrying explosives and an indictment accusing him of violation of Michigan's criminal syndicalism law in connection with an alleged Black Legion plot to overthrow the Government.

Charles W. Leasure, Davey's secretary, said he had been informed Effinger will fight the extradition proceedings.

61-7398-A

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Carson	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Foxworth	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Jones	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

Step on It

INDICATIONS that the Black Legion still survives recent publicity persist in spite of the indignation the discovery of several murders has aroused. Last week, for example, an Ohio police chief arrested a man charged with being the Legion's leader. If these stories have any foundation in fact, it is time that more drastic action be taken than has yet been attempted. And facilities for such action are ready at hand in the shape of various laws enacted to combat kidnaping and gang crimes. It should not be difficult to discover a ground on which the federal government could intervene. And if the G-men took a hand in the proceedings they, with the support of the federal courts, would have full power to act in cases where there is ground for suspecting that local officers have been identified with the Legion.

The Black Legion is a completely subversive organization. On the confession of its members it has lived on violence, not excepting murder. The quicker it is broken up the quicker unreasoning, deluded Americans will be protected from a poison deliberately being planted in prejudiced minds.

61-7398-A

San Diego, Union
San Diego, Calif
8/15/36

45

15

LEGION-URGES PROBE OF RED FORCES IN U. S.

**Starnes-Reynolds Bill to Plug
Immigration Leaks Backed;
Unit Candidates Named**

Vigorously reaffirming their staunch opposition to communism, District American Legionnaires in the second night of their convention at the Mayflower Hotel asked a study be made of subversive forces at work in this country.

Resolutions asking for a committee of three Legionnaires to draw up an explanatory document to be printed for distribution after its approval by the executive committee were passed by the body.

Probe Needed

The resolutions stated "there is a great need of a source of information on communism, fascism, nazism and governments by dictatorship in relation to our American ideals."

In other resolutions the Legion condemned the Black Legion, Black Shirts and other "utterly reprehensible" organizations, pledged support to the Starnes-Reynolds bill covering deficiencies in immigration laws, reaffirmed their stand on mob violence and lynching, asked repeal of the famous "marriage clause" and asked for establishment of a veterans' hospital for women who served in the World War.

Study Secret Groups

A special committee was authorized to study the activities of secret organizations "who use methods of brutality, mutilation, kidnaping and murder to attain their un-American principles."

The legion also urged that compensation pay to widows of World War veterans be extended to those whose disabilities were 10 per cent. At present payments are made to widows of those who suffered 30 per cent disability.

They also voiced approval of the establishment of a Civil Service Court of Appeals.

Name Candidates

Delegates also named candidates for offices in the District Department, as a prelude to a hotly contested election tonight. Jack O'Connell, of the Vincent Costello Post, and Horace W. Linburg, of the Police Post, were named candidates for the position of commander.

First vice commander will be either John B. Karley or Ray L. Zwinglas, while the candidates for national executive committee men are James O'Connor Roberts and James J. Malloy, retiring commander.

Opposes Reds

One of the anti-red resolutions read:

"Whereas communism is still a factor in American life, the Legion repeats and renews its absolute opposition to communism and other forms of 'subversiveism,' and to all agencies that support or disseminate its doctrines."

The resolution supporting the Starnes-Reynolds bill stated:

"Whereas millions of aliens are illegally in this country and hundreds of thousands of them are on relief and are being supported by us to the detriment of citizens, we endorse the Starnes-Reynolds bill introduced at the last session which covers the deficiencies and evils of our immigration laws."

The "Black Legion" resolution stated secret orders of its kind "strike at foundations of American principles and imperil law and order."

EEF

Mr. L. J. O'W

61-7297-A

WASH. HERALD

AUG 15 1935

R. E. JOSEPH

HAR

MORE BLACK LEGION REVELATIONS

Latest and most shocking of the Black Legion revelations is the confession of Dayton Dean, its trigger man, that members of an outing shot a Negro war veteran to death near Pinckney, Mich., May 25 "just for the hell of it."

For sheer bloodthirsty depravity and viciousness it would be hard to equal Dean's story of how Black Legion members on a week-end party with their wives lured their victim, Silas Coleman, out into the country and then shot him to death for their entertainment.

It is just such abnormal sadism and pathological lust for blood and torture that mark the activities of Fascists in other countries. Their appearance in this country, in connection with a fairly widespread organization, is a challenge to decent Americans.

The new Dean confession calls attention to the soft-pedaling of the Black Legion investigation in Michigan. Six murders have been proven against this organization. Eight others are attributed to it. In addition it is held responsible in six floggings and in several cases of bombing and arson.

Grave questions are raised by the fact that three of the six murders definitely laid at the doorstep of the Black Legion, those of Jack Marchuk, Jack Bielak and Roy C. Pidcock, were murders of men active in organizing labor, notably in the automobile plants.

How high does the trail of these murders reach? How much have Michigan investigators learned? How many prominent business men or politicians are involved? These questions demand an answer and if Michigan investigators cannot answer them, Federal investigators should.

Here certainly is a job for the G-Men.

✓

WHS
WJH

61-7398-A
New York Post

JUL 2 1936

'Bible Burner' Shot To Death by Wife

*Black Legion Linked to
Latcst Tragedy
Under Probe*

DETROIT, July 20 (I.N.S.). The Black Legion was linked with another death probe today after Mrs. Emma Lugenbell, 56, former restaurant owner of Toronto, confessed shooting her husband to death, declaring her mate scoffed at religion, burned her Bible and once branded her across the chest with a hot poker. She told police:

"I believe he was a member of the Black Legion. He used to belong to the Ku Klux Klan and he had been attending a meeting some place in a field every two weeks."

It was the Black Legion which decreed the death of Charles A. Poole, Works Progress Administration worker, on spurious reports he beat his wife. In this case Mrs. Lugenbell declared her husband, Frank, 48, was the wife beater. She said:

"I shot him three times in our confectionery store Saturday afternoon after he beat me and blackened one eye. My mind was a blank after that. I remember seeing him put the gun away. Then it was in my hands, and I was pulling the trigger."

Handwritten notes and signatures in the right margin, including "Mug" and "ow".

61-7398 A

WASHINGTON

JUL 20 1935

Handwritten mark, possibly "A".

Handwritten mark, possibly "155".

10

It Need Not Happen Here

To the Editor of New York Post:

Sir—Recent news reports indicate that Attorney General Cummings has refused the request of Michigan authorities to investigate the activities of the "Black Legion" in that State. The Attorney General has refused to turn his G-men to this task for the reported reason "lack of Federal jurisdiction."

We trust that Mr. Cummings will not think us presumptuous in calling to his attention the following pertinent Federal statute:

"Section 51, U. S. C. A. (Criminal Code, Section 19).—Conspiracy to injure persons in exercise of civil rights. If two or more persons conspire to injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate any citizen in the free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege secured to him by the Constitution or laws of the United States, or because of his having so exercised the same, or if two or more persons go in disguise on the highway, or on the premises of another, with intent to prevent or hinder his free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege so secured, they shall be fined not more than \$5,000 and imprisoned not more than ten years, and shall, moreover, be thereafter ineligible to any office, or place of honor, profit, or trust created by the Constitution or laws of the United States." (R. S. Section 5508; March 4, 1909, c. 321, Section 19, 35 Stat. 1092.)"

Fortified by legal opinion, we believe that the Attorney General has ample authority and reason to use his justly famed Bureau of Investigation to ferret out Fascist hoodlums as well as kidnapers.

In fact, the former seem to us a more potent threat to American law and order than a dozen Al Capones.

READER.

EW ✓
Wgly PJ ✓
RZ ✓

61-7395-A

JUL 14 1936

U. S. INQUIRY ASKED

**Probe of Black Legion Is Urged
by International Labor Defense.**

NEW YORK, July 9 (AP).—The International Labor Defense disclosed today that it has petitioned United States Attorney General Homer S. Cummings to order a Department of Justice investigation into terroristic activities of the Black Legion.

The International Labor Defense, in a letter to Cummings, contended that the Government could prosecute under Federal statutes against night riding, kidnaping, threatening communications, flight from the State to avoid prosecution for a felony, interference with the Federal Relief Administration, and fraudulently obtaining Federal aid.

MA6
Garrison
JAE

61-7398-A

JUL 9 1938

Mr. Tolson
 Mr. Boardman
 Mr. Clegg
 Mr. Glavin
 Mr. Ladd
 Mr. Nichols
 Mr. Rosen
 Mr. Tracy
 Mr. Carson
 Mr. Egan
 Mr. Gurnea
 Mr. Hendon
 Mr. Pennington
 Mr. Quinn
 Mr. Nease
 Mr. Gandy

Arch
Smick

TREASONABLE BOASTS

For several years one George W. Christians of Chattanooga has been mailing red-inked letters denouncing men of prominence, exhibiting racial and religious intolerance and threatening to use force to institute his ideas as to how the government should be run.

Now this self-annointed leader of the "Red Revolutionary Society of the White Shirt Crusaders" is openly boasting advocacy of violence and asserting that eventually his organization will "embrace all but 5 per cent of the Nation's population."

The last ridiculous brag is of no significance save in its insult to American intelligence. The first repeats more brazenly what the author has said many times in the literature he has broadcast. Possibly it is because that literature is stupidly bombastic and moronic in tone, the writer has so far escaped official notice. Yet there is in it the stuff of which Black Legion murders are concocted and which, in any other country, long ago would have held its author answerable to charges of treason and conspiracy.

61-7398-A

PLEASE RETURN TO
DIVISION OF
PRESS INTELLIGENCE
2067 Commerce Bldg.

NO.

SYMBOL

PAPER

CITY

DATE

JUL 1 1936

LET'S HOPE STATE LINE WAS
CROSSED

It is not yet known whether or not the Columbus county band of terrorists has invaded federal law and until that question is settled District Attorney Carr's proposal to enlist service of federal investigators to root out Black Legion hoodism in eastern North Carolina must remain as a gesture. And it is a reflection on the law enforcement agencies of Columbus county or of the State of North Carolina that a federal investigation is so much as suggested. But on the theory that an honest confession is good for the soul, frank North Carolinians may as well admit now that the chances are 100 to 1 that neither local nor state authorities will get far in stifling mob-rule that has lifted its head in Columbus county. When something is said about federal legislation to curb mob-rule and mob-lynching there are always those ready to jump up and object on the grounds that it involves invasion of states' rights. But when time comes for local and state authorities to move against mobsters and terrorists, those defenders of states' rights keep quiet while perfunctory probes, investigations and grand jury deliberations proceed toward an uncertain end.

So, it might be a good break for all concerned save the terrorists if it develops that a state line was crossed. Then we could save our faces from surrender of states' rights and at same time probably get somewhere in burning out a decayed spot in our Tar Heel law and order armor.

61-7378-A

THE MONROE COUNTY WEEKLY

Established 1935

A Home-Owned Independent Tabloid Newspaper Devoted to the Interests of
Greater Monroe and Monroe County.

Published Weekly by The Lamour Publishing Co.

12 W. FIRST ST.

PHONE 1328

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route boys.

CO-OPERATION Among Police

J. Edgar Hoover revealed recently in a newspaper statement and also in a magazine article that the federal department of justice had not received the proper support and co-operation from certain city or local authorities in rounding up "public rats" who were known thugs, gangsters, kidnapers and killers.

Now comes the revelation in Detroit that TWO YEARS ago the federal department of justice agents and Mayor Hackett of Highland Park were informed of the "murder ring" known as the Black Legion—and that Mayor Hackett and Arthur Kingsley, Highland Park newspaper publisher, were marked for death by the Black Legion, an infamous organization that foisted itself on this and other states for political supremacy by terrorizing those who stood in the way.

Every true American owes it to himself and his country to uphold law and order—and why there should be jealousy—or worse—between local, state and federal law enforcement officers is a conundrum to the average taxpayer who pays his good money to see that laws ARE enforced.

61-7348-A

HOODED NIGHT RIDERS FLOG FIVE WOMEN

Mother of Girl on Trial Shows
Red Cross Branded on Head;
Man, 3 Daughters Beaten

WHITEVILLE, N. C., June 29 (U.P.).—Columbus county authorities, unable to learn the identity of a gang of night raiders from the six victims, all residents of this area and among them four women, a 14-year-old girl and a 65-year-old man, have rearrested a man considered an important witness in the case.

The prisoner, Pink King, was reportedly held in jail at Wilmington, near here.

Freed of Assault

Information about the masked raiders, who whizzed through the country-side, was obtained at King's trial here on charges of criminally assaulting the 14-year old girl victim of the mob. The girl's mother, forced to remove her hat, showed the court her clipped hair and a brand mark, which she said the mob marked her with after flogging her and the girl, a mental deficient.

Authorities rearrested King on another charge after he was acquitted of attacking the girl.

Gang of 18 Men

The theory that the night raiders, known to have included from 11 to 18 men, who were dressed in white sheets and wore masks over their faces, acted because of religious motives was given after victims of the raids revealed the assaults followed charges of alleged immoral conduct or reputed whisky selling.

Questioning at the trial revealed the girl and her mother had been taken from their cottage by a gang approximating 18 men, who whipped the two and then warned them to "mend your ways, go to Sunday school and be good women."

The other women flogging victims were daughters of a 65-year-old farmer, who authorities had accused of immoral conduct.

Handwritten notes and signatures in the right margin, including "H.A." and "P. Miller".

61-1398-A

JUN 30 1936

Young Boy Watches as Mother Is Slain

'Black Legion' Scrawled on Mirror in Lipstick After Brutal Murder of Chicago Woman

CHICAGO—A sleepy young boy ran into a hotel lobby here early today and sobbed out that a Negro or black-masked white man had beat his mother to death and then scrawled "Black Legion" in lipstick on a mirror.

The victim was Mrs. Florence Castle, pretty 25-year-old divorcee and night club hostess. Her son, James, 7, awoke in their dimly-lighted hotel room to see the intruder "hitting mother about the ears" with a brick.

The boy's dim recollections, stammered between tears, were followed eagerly by police anxious to learn whether the hooded Michigan terroristic organization really had perpetrated the crime.

The killing occurred in a hotel frequented by "show people." James' father, James Thompson, was said to live in Boston. Her second husband, known as Bud Castle, was reported in Los Angeles.

James said the slayer tried to soothe him by saying, "Don't worry, I'll take you to Los Angeles in the morning."

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Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Johnson
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

61-7299-A

WASH. NEWS

JUN 29 1936

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BLACK LEGION EXPOSE MEETING ANNOUNCED

Retired Seattle Advertising Man
Reveals Plans for Public
Session July 22.

By the Associated Press.

SEATTLE, June 27.—N. P. Atkinson, retired advertising man, today announced a public meeting the night of July 22, to expose what he said is the Pacific Northwest spread of the Black Legion, secret order recently discovered in Michigan.

Atkinson said he represents the committee on the significance of the Black Legion idea, and said the "idea" is being carried on by a group which urges members to carry firearms.

"They are active now, meeting in neighboring guilds. The movement should be stamped out before it dominates the community," Atkinson said.

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Mr. Lester.....
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Mr. Tracy.....
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JUN 27 1935

26

Another Black Legion!



Now that J. Edgar Hoover and his G-men have made kidnaping unprofitable and unhealthy for the underworld, wouldn't it be a good idea for them to turn their attention to the Black Legion of Blackmailers?

The only difference between Blackmail and Kidnaping is that the Blackmailer

holds the victim's REPUTATION for ransom instead of his person.

One crime is just as despicable as the other.

Stamping out this Black Brotherhood of human leeches should be the next task for the G-men!

7-6 61-7296 A

Done

90X6
@muckys

PLS

Human Side of the News --:

By Edwin C. Hill
The Globe Trotter of Hearst Metrolone New

THIS Black Legion which has been uncovered in the Midwest is nothing new in American life. It seems that in every generation we must have a group of self-righteous individuals who feel that they are above the law and that it is their duty to see that their neighbors live according to the way they would point out for them. They may start off with the purest of motives, but always they wind up as criminal, murderous gangs.

The Black Legion recalls to me the black hand which for fifty-five years disfigured the wall of a cell in the jail at Mauch Chunk, Pennsylvania. The mark was left by a convicted member of the Black Legion of his day, an organization of cut-throats and terrorists which went by the name of the Molly Maguires.

A MINER.

The man was a miner, and the story went that as he was being dragged from his cell to the gallows, he wrenched his right hand free, rubbed it on the floor with coal dust and slapped it high on the wall, saying, "That mark is the hand-print of an innocent man. It never can be washed away."

It wasn't for more than half a century. Then, in 1931, Sheriff Robert L. Bowman grew



tired of the legend of the curious who would come to the jail to look on the hand in the cell of the Molly Maguire. "We'll have no more of the hand," said the sheriff, and with a penknife he cut out the plaster.

The Molly Maguires brought racketeering to the United States. They followed the same methods as the "mobs," such as

Al Capone's, which have graced our own day. They began as a philanthropic society among the Irish miners in the Pennsylvania anthracite fields.

They got their name from a secret band which was organized in Ireland in 1843 among the lower class of tenant farmers for the purpose of preventing eviction and of terrorizing the

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61-7396-A

agents of absentee landlords. The nickname came from their practice of disguising themselves as women.

The Pennsylvania Molly Maguires were notorious for twenty years for their outrages on English, Welsh and German mine owners.

They became dominant in the labor circles in the anthracite fields and in political circles as well. Assault and murder were commonplace, the mine bosses were terrorized, the police were helpless and it was worth a man's life to walk the streets of Mauch Chunk, Scranton or Wilkes-Barre after dark.

TRAILS SUSPECTS.

At last Franklin B. Gown, president of the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad and Coal and Iron Company, determined to call in the Pinkertons, and they sent to him a young Irishman who had been running a saloon in Chicago until Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicked over the lantern to destroy the saloon and the rest of the city by fire. His name was James McParland.

He went into the anthracite fields in 1873 under the name of James McKenna. In the three years that followed, McParland lived in the expectation that each succeeding minute would be the last for him on this earth. He began his detective work as a miner, but soon learned that the big guns of the Molly Maguires either were holding political jobs or running saloons, and not working in the pits.

An old saloonkeeper himself, McParland wormed his way into the confidence of Pat Dormer, a Molly, who kept a saloon in Mauch Chunk.

Slowly and carefully, for the least false step meant his life, McParland edged into the high council of the Mollys until he was made their secretary. The twenty-year campaign of terrorism came to a climax in 1875 with the murder of a policeman and a mine boss.

SPRUNG THE TRAP.

Thereupon, McParland sprung the trap, rather he sprang eleven traps, for that was the number of the ringleaders of the Molly Maguires who went to the gallows in the space of a year.

Forty-five others went to prison, and the Molly Maguires were no more. James McParland was the J. Edgar Hoover of the 1870's. His work in Pennsylvania alone would have given him a place second to none in our detective annals. Yet he was to duplicate it in Idaho in 1906 when he broke up the reign of thuggery and assassination instituted by the "Inner Circle" of the Western Federation of Miners, which came to an end when McParland convicted Harry Orchard of the murder of ex-Gov. Steunenberg and got Orchard to implicate the miners' officials in 25 other murders.

McParland used the same tactics as in Pennsylvania and broke up this gang of terrorists, whose chief weapon was dynamite, with which they had killed 13 men at one clip by blowing up the railroad station at Independence, Col.

'Black Cult' Loots Norfolk Church

*Tabernacle Stolen by
Hooded Mob; Altar
Lincens Ruined*

NORFOLK, Va., June 19.—Revealing the background of the Black Legion in all its viciousness, members of that "hooded klan" today invaded Sacred Heart Catholic Church and stole the most sacred object of Roman Catholic worship—a 400-pound tabernacle and its contents.

In carting away the tabernacle and a solid gold ciborium containing 500 particles of the sacred host, the Black Legion's marauders ripped apart the altar and left it in a shambles.

The altar linen, blessed and carefully guarded through the years, was strewn over the floor as the "klan's" crew of vandals accomplished its work.

Police, who laid the theft at the door of the Black Legion, expressed the belief that the thieves gained entrance to the church by smashing a rear window.

As word of the looting circulated through the city, leaders of all religious groups offered assistance in the search for the marauders.

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Dougherty

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WASH. HERALD

CONFIDENTIAL

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Red Baiting Held Dangerous Pastime by Dr. Chaffee

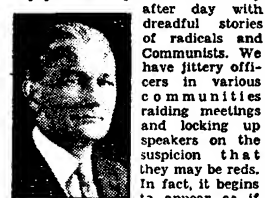
New Hysteria Wave Might Be Laughed Off, If Its Consequences
Were Not So Serious, Says Presbyterian Editor

By DR. EDMUND B. CHAFFEE
Editor, Presbyterian Tribune

One of the most curious and sinister effects of the depression has been the revival of red baiting. This indoor and outdoor sport is probably an inevitable accompaniment of hard times. It will be recalled that this phenomenon appeared in this country soon after the Great War when our economic system went into reverse. It was then that we had the "Palmer Raids" by the Justice Department when hundreds of suspected radicals

were suddenly thrown into prison although it later developed that there was a dearth of evidence to justify such action.

So today we have a great chain of papers feeding their readers day after day with dreadful stories of radicals and Communists. We have jittery officers in various communities raiding meetings and locking up speakers on the suspicion that they may be reds.



In fact, it begins to appear as if we were in for another of these waves of hysteria. We use the term "hysteria" advisedly for there is nothing in sober reason to justify this fear. It is a matter of the emotions. It is a reflex of economic insecurity.

SHOW LITTLE STRENGTH

If we look at this matter calmly and try to see the facts which are open to anyone who will take the trouble to ask a few questions, we find that the Communist Party in the United States is in plain fact pitifully weak. It has much less than 50,000 members. Even if we count with them every type of Marxian, Socialist, Socialist Labor, I. W. W. and all of the 15 or 20 groups taking that general position, there would not be 150,000 in all this land. If to that we add all those who are affiliated in other organizations, defense leagues, etc., still the total would be only a few hundred thousand, a small fraction of 1 per cent of our population. When the statement is made that there are 3,000,000 reds in the United States, one suspects that the statistician responsible for this figure must have counted all Harvard alumni, American Indians and all signal men who wave a red flag.

However, it is not that most of those who make such statements actually have no intention of using these terms with any degree of accuracy. They are throwing red mud and a red for them is anyone who is not 100 per cent for things as they are. In fact, the red scare has become in all lands the favorite way of blocking reform. If one doesn't like a particular man or group there is no more effective way of discrediting him or them than by pinning the red label. It is this way that the advocates of the child labor amendment have been pilloried; this device too has been used for the purpose of discounting the co-operative movement. Even those who have been sincere believers in the present economic system and have sought to save it by reforming it have had the red epithet thrown at them.

MISLEADS THE WEAK

We might ignore all this were it not for the fact that many a kindly but ignorant man takes it all seriously. He proceeds to act upon it. The Black Legion in Detroit and its environs shows the final consequences of such loose talking. Not

a few well-meaning but misguided folk actually take seriously such a curiosity as Mrs. Dilling's Red Network and consider it their patriotic duty to keep all listed in that document from being heard from any platform. From belief in such fantastic documents it is but a step to belief in "The Protocols of the Wise Men of Zion." From that the descent is rapid so that even in this land of public school education and tolerance documents are being circulated calling upon Christians to get out their 45s to prevent the Jews from ruling the world.

Red baiting is a dangerous pastime. It destroys its victims; it just as truly make a hell of life for those who give themselves to its fear and cruelty. And for every red destroyed by such methods a dozen others are made.

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Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy

WASH. NEWS

JUN 20 1936

61-7398 JOSHUA

O. K. Black Legion Probe

The Senate Judiciary Committee today approved the Benson resolution calling for an investigation of the Black Legion.

61-7398-1
WASH. NEWS

JUN 19 1936

W. B. JORPPH

SENATE APPROVES BLACK LEGION PROBE

International News Service

By a unanimous vote the Senate Judiciary Committee today approved a joint resolution calling for a sweeping investigation of the Black Legion and other un-American activities of terrorist groups.

61-7377-A

JUN 18 1955

A. E. JOSEPH

Liberals Urge F. D. to Back U. S. Probe of Black Legion

Declaring the real leaders of the Black Legion have not yet been exposed, 30 prominent liberals appealed to President Roosevelt today to urge enactment of the Benson-Dickstein Resolution for a congressional investigation of the terrorist group.

Signers of the letter to the President included Sherwood Anderson, Bishop Edgar Blake of Detroit, Bishop Benjamin Brewster of Maine, Prof. Paul H. Douglas of Chicago University, John F. Finerty, Washington attorney; Prof. Irving Fisher of Yale, Prof. Kirtley F. Mather of Harvard, Bishop Robert L. Faddock of New York, Ernest Poole, novelist, and Rabbi Stephen S. Wise of New York.

POLITICIANS INVOLVED

They are members of a special committee on the Black Legion formed by the American Civil Liberties Union.

This letter said:

"Disclosures of Black Legion activities in Michigan and neighboring states indicate that these hooded terrorists have secretly armed for a campaign of murders, floggings, bombings and arson, directed against minority racial, religious and political groups.

"Most sinister aspect of the Black Legion is its connection with men in political office. . . . Public interest demands a thoro exposure of the Black Legion, its sources of funds, its connections and its leadership. The present investigations . . . are aimed only at discovering evidence of crime. Much more is involved. . . .

"May we urge you, Mr. President, to use your influence to insure the passage of the resolution by the present Congress?"

The resolution introduced jointly by Sen. Benson (R.-L., Minn.) and Rep. Dickstein (D., N. Y.) provides for a committee of four senators and four representatives to investigate the Black Legion and other organizations "spreading similar un-American propaganda of religious, racial, or sub-

versive political prejudices." The committee would be empowered to call on the various Government departments for assistance and would have full powers of subpoena.

DETROIT — James E. Bader, employe of the suburban city of Pontiac, today was sentenced to 30 days in jail for giving evasive answers at a grand jury investigation of charges that the Pontiac police force is honeycombed with Black Legionnaires.

Fifteen alleged Black Legion members, charged with plotting the death of a village president and a newspaper publisher, were held for trial today at the conclusion of their examination.

Recorder's Judge John P. Scallen said he had found sufficient evidence to hold 12 of the men in connection with the death plot against Arthur L. Kingsley, Highland Park publisher, and three others in connection with a plan to "get" William W. Voisard, Ecorse president.

Both intended victims were political enemies of the vigilantes.

The court ordered present bail of the 15, double sureties on \$25,000 bonds each, to be continued pending the trial, date for which was not set.

WASH. NEWS

61-7390 A

36

If the published oath of the so-called Black Legion is authentic, kidnaping was not outside the realm of crime to which the deluded members of the new Klan bound themselves. Just at present the Michigan state officials are investigating a murder charge against a group of 12 who were bound by the "blood oath." If the state inquiry reveals kidnaping conspiracies, the G-men ought to step into the picture at once.

It's safe to predict that with G-men on their trail, the promoters of the Black Legion would soon be rounded up and their power over their fanatic followers broken.

5-29-36

INDIANAPOLIS NEWS
May 27, 1936

Colored People Seek Lynch Law.
NEW YORK, May 27 (A.P.)—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has telegraphed President Roosevelt, asking him to insist that the Van Nuys anti-lynching resolution be reported out of a congressional committee.

It quoted J. Edgar Hoover as admitting the bureau of investigation was unable to join in investigating reports of "lynchings and other mob activities of the Black Legion in Michigan because no federal law authorized him to act."

The telegram said no objection could be raised to the demand by the most violent partisan because there is neither sectional nor racial issue in the Black Legion situation.

Mr. Nathan	✓
Mr. Tolson	
Mr. W. H. Clegg	
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Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
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Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Jones	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

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Federal Bureau of Investigation

Do We Need More G-Men?

THE ANNOUNCEMENT by J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, that the G-Men would not intervene in Morgan's "Black Legion" cleanup, was based upon the fact that up to that time the "Black Legionnaires" had not been known to violate federal laws.

Farther than that, it is wise, we believe, to adhere to definite limits to the activities of the G-Men.

Their service to the nation has been remarkable. Since they have exterminated all of the "yellow rats" on the Bureau's list, there has been some agitation for extension of the activities of the G-Men. On the other hand, there has been heard, in individual instances, the protest that the Federal Bureau of Investigation was a menace to state's rights.

Both views, we believe, are in error.

The G-Men have handled, with eminent success, crime problems which state and local authorities were powerless to handle—notably kidnapping. There was every reason for the federal government to take a hand in the types of crime which local law enforcement agencies could not handle alone. It is ridiculous to assume that this constituted invasion of state's rights.

There is a practical reason, however, for not wanting the federal crime-fighting agency to take in too much territory. The reason is that a decrease in efficiency would almost inevitably ensue. Concentration has been one of the keynotes of the success of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to date. If a great number of cases demanded the attention of G-Men, their effectiveness in handling each would, naturally, be decreased.

There is another way, and a much better way, to meet the problem, and that is through the adoption of F. B. I. standards of efficiency and methods by state and local law-enforcement agencies.

Instead of envying J. Edgar Hoover, as some police officials do, the heads of state and local crime-fighting units should copy after him. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has sponsored police training courses in several major cities. This activity could be carried on until all police organizations were versed in the methods of the G-Men.

The present need of America is not so much a need for more G-Men, but more state and local officers as well trained and as efficient as G-Men.

LOUISVILLE HERALD-POST

5/27/36.

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R. E. JOSEPH

May 27, 1936

MAN ATTACKED FOR REFUSING TO JOIN BAND

Victim Tells of Being Inter-
viewed by U. S.

Justice Agent

THREATS REVEALED

Man Attacked, Then Freed
After Given Warning
Not to Talk

By The United Press

LIMA, O., May 27 — William M. Smith, 55, weather-beaten farmer, described today how he had been beaten unconscious, held prisoner in corn crib, and threatened with death by the Black Legion.

He incurred the enmity of the secret organization, Mr. Smith said, because he refused to join after attending a meeting. He said he had talked with a Department of Justice operative and was told by the G-Man that "at the proper time" he would be called upon to tell of his experience in court.

He and a young relative had been cutting corn. Mr. Smith said, on Sept. 29, 1934. After the day's work was done, the relative suggested they take an auto ride. They picked up two neighbors and drove to a farm home 15 miles away.

"It was raining hard as we turned into a long lane," he said. "We drove back off the road about a half mile."

"Two fellows dressed up like the devil himself walked up to the car. Each of them had a flashlight in one hand and a gun in the other. I knew right then that was no place to be and I would have took off through the field if it hadn't been raining so hard."

"The fellow I was with said to one of the fellows, 'Two recruits,' and he let us pass," Mr. Smith continued.

"I said I'd just as soon sit in the car and wait. The longer I sat there the colder I got, but pretty soon I spied my relative in a little shed. I ran over there but he had gone by the time I got there. I sat down on a box. They had 12 recruits lined up and a man I knew was filling out cards for them.

"They counted the men and the cards and found out I didn't have one. This friend walked up and said, 'What's your name?' I said 'You know what my name is. This is a lot of tom foolishness.'"

"Those other recruits was too

shamed to say anything. Their teeth was crackin'—together like a hog eatin' charcoal."

"He filled out the card and they marched us into a big barn. There was about 200 of them in the barn, all decked out in that paraphernalia."

"The chief gazabo, a great big fellow with a heavy voice, was hollering about the Democrats and the Republicans. He said, 'the damn Democrats and the damn Republicans have been runnin' this country long enough. We're going to take over the Government and run it ourselves.'"

"He lined us up and told us what a fine organization it was and then said if any of you is a Catholic you better get out of here quick."

"I said I was no Catholic but I was ready to leave. He said 'why' and I said 'If it's such a good organization, what do you have to meet in the middle of the night for?'"

"He said because they were outlaws; they were just like the old guerilla bands. I said, 'Well, I'm no outlaw.'"

"He hollered, 'Why you yellow I'll mash your brains out with this gun,' I said, 'Maybe you will in here with all these fellows on your side but you won't outside,' and I started shoving to get out."

"Just as I got to the door one fellow jumped on my back. I swung

around and one of them hit me on the head and another hit me on the back of the head. The next thing I knew they were carrying me out through the rain."

"They carried me to a corn crib and laid me down. Two of them, both carrying pistols, sat down on the floor to watch me. That was about 12:30. Along about 2 a. m. a fellow came up to the crib and asked me if I wanted to reconsider. I said, 'Hell no.'"

"Well about 4:30 one of them came up and said I could go. I got out and two of them marched longside of me poking guns in my sides. One of them said, 'If you ever tell what happened here tonight, you'll die within 24 hours.'"

Mr. Smith said he told officers what had happened the next day and that two days later, two men threatened him with:

"You told and you're going to die."

Six weeks later, he said, a Department of Justice agent came to see him.

61-7396-A

SUSPECTS 'LEGION' THREAT

Representative Hoffman (R., Mich.)
- Says He Got Warning Letter.

By the Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, May 27.—Representative Hoffman (R., Mich.) said today he had received a threatening letter from what "might be the Black Legion."

"It was not signed," asserted the Congressman, "but it suggested that I had a green plot two by six waiting for me back in Michigan."

Hoffman said he regarded it as a "crank" letter, but would gladly turn it over to authorities if they thought it might pertain to the hooded organization.

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Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Starnes
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

Smith
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61-7298 A

Black Legion Inquiry By Congress Advocated

Dickstein Would See if It Has 'International Connections'

WASHINGTON, May 26 (UP).—Representative Samuel Dickstein, Democrat, New York, tonight urged a Congressional investigation of the "un-American" Black Legion to "ascertain its real purpose and whether it has any international connections."

Mr. Dickstein said the Black Legion, whose terroristic activities were revealed in Michigan, and similar organizations should be "thoroughly investigated in order that the American people may know whether or not they are in fact the American ends of European subversive organizations."

The New York Representative is chairman of the House Immigration Committee and was vice-chairman of a special committee which conducted a short investigation into "un-American" activities last year. He said that inquiry was not complete because of limited funds.

He added that it would be "interesting to ascertain" if there was any connection between the Black Legion and a Colorado group known as the "Black Shirts" which came to the attention of the investigators last year.

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MAY 27 1936

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COURIER-NEWS
Plainfield, N. J.

MAY 27 1936

Ohio Sheriff Asked G-Men's Aid In Black Legion Probe, He Avers

Lima, Ohio.—(P)—Disclosure that an unwilling candidate for Black Legion membership and testimony

asked to investigate the beating of that a leader of the vigilantes claimed control of relief jobs extended today ramifications of the secret order whose members have been named in murder, flogging and kidnaping charges.

While authorities in Detroit and other Michigan cities reopened inquiries into every unsolved crime of violence there for the past several years, Sheriff W. E. Kelley, of Auglaize County, Ohio, reported that he had asked the Justice Department last September to investigate the beating and intimidation of William Smith, 55-year-old Waynesfield, Ohio, farmer who refused to join the society.

Sheriff Kelley said he never had received a reply from the Department of Justice, so considered at the time that the federal agents had not regarded the matter as worth going into.

To Smith's story of assault and threats of death when he refused to be initiated into the Black Legion, was added the disclosure that a witness before an Ohio State Senate committee last summer had named V. F. Effinger of Lima as head of the night riders and said Effinger claimed to be able to control jobs in relief offices.

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Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

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925 Broad St. Nat'l Bank Building
Trenton, N. J.

Handwritten initials: JH

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Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

Handwritten initials: EW

REPEATING MESSAGES FOR DOJ
 DETROIT—PROSECUTOR DUNCAN G. MCGREAR ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT HE
 HAS ASKED THE AID OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN HIS INVESTIGATION OF THE
 MURKIN BLACK LIGION
 MCGREAR REQUESTS THAT MAIL DIRECTOR TO ATTORNEY GENERAL HOMER S. CLEGGINS
 WASHINGTON, D.C. MCGREAR SAID.
 (END REPEAT)

61-7398-A

[Handwritten signature]

Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Edwards	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Foxworth	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Carson	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Gurnea	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Hendon	.....
Mr. Jones	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Nease	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Winterrowd	.....
Tele. Room	.....
Mr. Holloman	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

RECORDED
INDEXED

ATTORNEY GENERAL CUMMINGS SAID TODAY HE HAD RECEIVED NO REQUEST FOR A FEDERAL INVESTIGATION OF THE "BLACK LEGION" ACTIVITIES.
AP-11-142-35

61-7398-A

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CHURCH FIRED BY 'REFORMER'

WILMINGTON, Del., May 27. (I.N.S.)—Touched off by a self-styled and apparently demented "reformer," a \$20,000 fire today swept through the Sacred Heart Catholic Church here.

Firemen found the following warning, scrawled in crayon, on the church's main altar:

"With the compliments of the reformer—notice."

Police officials squelched rumors the "reformer" was a member of the Black Legion, terrorist cult under investigation in Detroit.

Authorities said there has been no evidence of Black Legion activities in this area.

The fire was started in a pile of rubbish in the church basement. It spread rapidly through to the first floor, burning several pews and scorching the walls before it was put out.

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Baughman	.....
Chief Clerk	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Edwards	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Foxworth	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Joseph	.....
Mr. Keith	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....
...
.....

Handwritten initials

66-184

61-7395

A

WASH. TIMES

MAY 27 1935

100-184

45

COYOTES

COYOTES are known to western ranchmen as skulking creatures of the night. They look something like wolves, but they have the hearts of alley dogs. The most cowardly of American beasts, they always hunt and attack in packs, and they always pick their prey from among the defenseless. They contrive to yap-yap in loud, shrill chorus, thus making people who do not know their ways believe that a small band of them is a veritable horde. Their blood brothers among the bipeds are such fauna as the authorities of Michigan have turned up, members of the so-called "Black Legion."

America knows this nocturnal breed of robed and hooded skulker, just as the western rancher knows the coyote. They have a sinister and fearsome ritual, but they are not brave men. They hunt in packs, make the appearance of power by means of threats, incendiarism and ritual killings, attack only minority groups.

America must exterminate such organizations as the "Black Legion" in the same ruthless way that ranchers exterminate coyotes.

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Baughman	.....
Chief Clerk	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Edwards	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Foxworth	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Joseph	.....
Mr. Keith	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

66-7395-A

MAY 27 1936

P. S. JOSEPH
46

House-Member

Urges Inquiry Of Black Legion

Investigation to Determine
Possible European Link
Asked by Dickstein.

Representative Samuel Dickstein (Democrat), of New York, last night urged a Congressional investigation of the "un-American Black Legion" to "ascertain its real purpose and whether it has any international connections."

Dickstein said the Black Legion, whose terrorist activities were revealed in Michigan, and similar organizations should be "thoroughly investigated" in order that the American people may know whether or not they are in fact the American ends of European subversive organizations.

The New York Representative is chairman of the House Immigration Committee and was vice chairman of a special committee which conducted a short investigation into "un-American" activities last year. He said that inquiry was not complete because of limited funds.

He added it would be "interesting to ascertain" if there was any connection between the Black Legion and a group known as the "Black Shirts" which came to the attention of the investigators last year as operating in Colorado.

Five More Arrested.

Detroit, May 28 (AP).—Every unsolved crime of violence in southern Michigan during the last few years was under renewed investigation tonight as State and county authorities pressed their war to uproot the Black Legion, hooded vigilante society whose members have been named in murder, kidnaping and flogging warrants.

A promise by Attorney General David H. Crowley to call grand juries in each county in which such crimes could be traced to the black-cloaked night riders spurred the investigations of violence and terrorism in at least five southern Michigan counties. Fires of incendiary and undetermined origin also were under investigation.

While these activities were being pushed, another batch of warrants was sworn out at Jackson, Mich., against reputed members of the secret terrorist organization. They numbered 25 and charged kidnaping and assault. They were followed immediately by the arrest of five men accused of being ringleaders of a mob of night riders who stripped and flogged Harold Smith, of Norwell, Mich., whom county officers said was a member of the order seeking to withdraw.

Guare Among Suspects.

The men arrested at Jackson were Ray Ernest, a guard at the State penitentiary, and described by county officers as a "brigadier general" in the Black Legion; Allen Basom, of Norwell; Clarence and Glenn Ernest, brothers of Ray, and Dite Hawley, another prison guard. Ray Ernest has been accused by State police as the leader of a mob that flogged Paul Every, another

prison guard, so severely that he died two weeks later.

The inquiry took another tangent today when Lieut. Van Loomis, of the Michigan State police, said that cards taken from Ray Ernest indicated the possibility that a women's auxiliary of the organization existed.

Attorney General Crowley and Oscar G. Olender, State commissioner of public safety, went to the State prison today to investigate reports, they said, that the staff of the penitentiary was "honeycombed" with Black Legion members, and that every one of the nearly 400 prison attaches has been approached to join the black-robed society.

Prison Guard Ousted.

One prison guard was dismissed today and several others were suspended. Gov. Frank D. Fitzgerald announced that all State employees found to have connection with the order are to be dismissed or suspended.

Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea, of Wayne County, who has been handling the inquiry in Detroit, disclosed today that he may unknowingly have signed an application for membership in the society while he was campaigning for election two years ago.

"I was more or less of a professional joiner at that time," he said. "But before I got through with this investigation, there will be no suspicion in anybody's mind that I

joined such an un-American organization."

Prosecutor McCrea raised the point today in connection with investigation of Black Legion activities that the fire that destroyed Father Charles E. Coughlin's original Shrine of the Little Flower March 17 never had been solved. McCrea today called a meeting of the county gun board to revoke permits for carrying firearms, "starting all over again" in the absence of permits, he said, upheld by members of the Black Legion will be definitely outlawed.

In an incendiary fire near Jackson early today, State and county authorities professed to see definite signs of the "war of extermination" have announced against the masked night-riding band. State police they frustrated an attempted burning of a hooded group near the occupied farm of George I. shortly before a barn and several outbuildings were destroyed by flames.

In a raid by Wayne County authorities in the Down River, Mich., this morning, five places entered and the raiders, led by Harry Colburn, McCrea's chief investigator, seized a number of weapons and considerable literature.

Examination for the men arrested today in Jackson has been set for June 2. In Detroit 12 men who have been held without bail on murder and kidnap warrants are to appear for examinations tomorrow.

W. H. POST

MAY 27 1936

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UNMASKED BY THE POLICE—Members of the Black Legion, terrorist organization, are lined up here before the bar of circuit court at Detroit. "Col." Harvey

Davis (in vest at right) is charged with being one of the actual killers of Charles Poole, relief worker slain in Black Legion ritual executions, according to police.

MAY 27 1936

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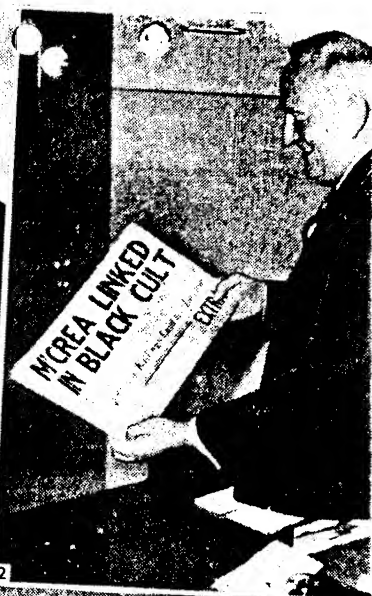
Mr. Baughman
 Chief Clerk
 Mr. Clegg
 Mr. Coffey
 Mr. Edwards
 Mr. Egan
 Mr. Glavin
 Mr. Ladd
 Mr. Nichols
 Mr. Rosen
 Mr. Tracy
 Mr. Carson
 Mr. Hendon
 Mr. Quinn
 Mr. Nease
 Mr. Gurnea
 Mr. Harbo
 Mr. Mohr
 Mr. Pennington
 Mr. Nease
 Mr. Gurnea
 Mr. Harbo
 Mr. Mohr
 Mr. Pennington

EW

Lowmeyer

61-7398-A

RECEIVED
 JAMES MCCREA, DETROIT
 "I KNOW DEFINITELY THAT THE BLACK LEGION IS NOW OPERATING IN 42
 TO 45 STATES," THE PROSECUTOR SAID, "AND KNOW THAT IT IS VERY ACTIVE IN THE
 CITIES OF NEW YORK AND CHICAGO."
 "I HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LEGION HAVE
 ENCLOSED THE HAULING OF BODIES ACROSS STATE BOUNDARY LINES, WHICH IS
 A FEDERAL OFFENSE," HE ADDED.
 "HE EXPLAINED THAT IN THE NUMBERS OF REPORTS OF ACTIVITIES BY
 THE BLACK ROBED BANDS HAD COME THE INFORMATION THAT MANY SERIOUS
 BUSINESS HAVE BEEN COMMITTED IN STATES OTHER THAN MICHIGAN.
 "FOR COURSE, I AM UNABLE TO INVESTIGATE THESE, AND FOR THAT REASON
 HAVE SENT THE LAID OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE," HE SAID.
 "THIS TELEGRAM TO CLUMMINGS SAID ON THE INVESTIGATION OF THE
 PROSECUTING ATTORNEY, I HAVE BEEN MAKING AN INVESTIGATION OF THE
 CALLED BLACK LEGION IN MICHIGAN, I HAVE AM IN RECEIPT OF NUMEROUS
 COMMUNICATIONS DEALING WITH THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION IN
 OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO INVESTIGATE
 THESE MATTERS, I DO BELIEVE FEDERAL LAWS VIOLATED WOULD APPROPRIATELY
 IT IS NOW WOULD ASSIGN SOMEONE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO
 COOPERATE WITH ME IN COMPLETING THE INVESTIGATION OF THIS ORGANIZATION."
 5/27-253012



No. 1—Harvey Davis, Black Legion "colonel," shown being photographed for the Detroit police records after 12 members of the vigilantes had been charged with slaying Charles A. Foose.
No. 2—Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea of Detroit, after records of the legion showed a membership card with his signature during his election campaign, but added; "Before I get through there will be no suspicion I joined."
No. 3—Harley W. Smith of Norvell, Mich., a witness before

the Jackson, Mich., grand jury, who said he was forced, and was flogged May 5.
No. 4—Russell H. Holmes of Michigan Center, also a testify.
No. 5—Floyd J. Reithmiller, guard at South Michigan called before the jury. Prosecutor Owen Dudley of charged all 385 guards at the prison had been sought a bers because they had weapons.—Copyright, A. P. Wire

WASIL STAR
MAY 27 1936

Mr. Tolson _____

Mr. Ladd _____

Mr. Nichols _____

Mr. Belmont _____

Mr. DeLoach _____

Mr. Mohr _____

Mr. Bishop _____

Mr. Casper _____

Mr. Callahan _____

Mr. Conrad _____

Mr. Felt _____

Mr. Gale _____

Mr. Rosen _____

Mr. Sullivan _____

Mr. Tavel _____

Mr. Trotter _____

Tele. Room _____

Mr. Holloman _____

Miss Gandy _____

ANDY MCCREA, DETROIT.

MCCREA COMPLAINED THAT HE HAD REQUESTED FEDERAL HELP FROM HEROLD BEINECKE, HEAD OF THE DETROIT OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, BUT HAD RECEIVED NO RESPONSE.

BEINECKE SAID THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN ADVISED BY HIS SUPERIORS TO ENTER THE INVESTIGATION, AND ADDED NO COMMENT AT THIS TIME WHEN ASKED CONCERNING MCCREA'S CHARGE.

61-7398-A

RECEIVED
MAY 20 1937

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

CHS:1
COLUMBUS, O. — TRANSCRIPT OF DETAILED TESTIMONY CONCERNING ALLEGED BLACK LEGION DISCRIMINATION OF ADLER COUNTY POOR RELIEF ADMINISTRATION WAS MADE PUBLIC TODAY BY REP. J. M. PHILLIPS, REPUBLICAN OF ADLER COUNTY, MEMBER OF THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE RELIEF INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE WHICH CONDUCTED HEARINGS IN ADLER LAST JULY.
TWO WITNESSES TOLD THE COMMITTEE THAT MEMBERS OF THE BLACK LEGION WERE GIVEN PREFERENCE IN THE GRANTING OF RELIEF, WERE MADE FOREMEN ON RELIEF PROJECTS, AND THAT NON-MEMBERS WERE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST.
ONE OF THESE WITNESSES, GEORGE ARMSBONG, LIMA, ADMITTED UNDER OATH THAT HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE LEGION.

61-7398-A

Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

Handwritten signatures and initials:
E. A. Tamm
Glavin
Nichols

RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FOR A COMMISSIONER'S INVESTIGATION
OF THE BLACK LIGION WAS INTRODUCED TODAY BY REP. DICKSTEIN.

THE BLACK LIGION RESOLUTION, HOUSE
RESOLUTION WAS REFERRED TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE.
WOULD AUTHORIZE APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE BY THE SPEAKER
PROVIDE FOR COMPLETE CO-OPERATION OF THE POSTOFFICE AND JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT.

THE BLACK LIGION RESOLUTION, HOUSE
RESOLUTION CALLS FOR AN INQUIRY INTO THE EXTENT, CHARACTER
AND RESOURCES OF THE BLACK LIGION, PRIMARILY BUT ALSO
DOES INVESTIGATION OF NUMEROUS OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.
ESTABLISHED NAMED AS THE BLACKSHIRTS, THE CHRISTIAN PARTY, THE
LIGION OF NEW YORK, THE ROBERT EDWARDS EDMONDSON ORGANIZATION
AND OTHER GROUPS WHICH SPREAD UNTRUE PROPAGANDA AND
HIGH ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED STATES.

61-7398-A

B.

Demands War on Terrorists

Rep. Dickstein Calls for
U. S. Action

WASHINGTON, May 26.—(U.P.)—Rep. Samuel Dickstein (Dem.), New York, chairman of the House Immigration Committee, today demanded investigation by the Justice and Postoffice departments of reports that "terrorists" are seeking to "destroy" Jews and Catholics.

Dickstein said that if Postmaster-Gen. James A. Farley and Director J. Edgar Hoover of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, are unable to take proper steps, he will appear for Congressional action.

Meanwhile, Rep. Charles Kramer (Dem.), California, charged that the mails were being used to distribute propaganda to foment "anti-Jewish" hatred, and asserted that he also had complained to the Postoffice Department.

If the departments decline to make the investigation, Dickstein said he would seek to reopen hearings this summer and fall by the House committee investigating un-American activities. Kramer is a member of that committee.

Dickstein told the Department of Justice that since the House inquiry concluded last January, there had been evidence that "foreign elements" were distributing subversive propaganda, some among Government employees.

"It is urgent that these matters

be investigated immediately in an effort to discover who is financing these drives," Dickstein wrote. "If you believe you do not have the authority to make the proper investigation, I shall call on Congress for further power for your organization to crush this menace."

Kramer said most of the literature which he wanted investigated was mailed from the Pacific coast.

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Chief Clerk	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Edwards	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Foxworth	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Joseph	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Lester	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Tracy	
Miss Gandy	

61-7398

News Views

CLEVELAND RODGERS

man and Geoghan—Lind-
gh's Return—Is Bridge
gambling? — Mormon
Fore-sight — Black
Legion

REITERATING its demand
on Governor Lehman for the
removal of District Attorney
Lindgh the special Kings County
jury makes it clear for the
time that it has completed its
work so far as it relates to the
attorney's office.

We understand it, this means
the jurors, after an exhaustive
gation, have failed to find
sufficient evidence to justify an in-
dictment of Mr. Geoghan but be-
nevertheless, that he should
be tried.

Evidence in support of this
indictment has not been made
public but it is in the hands of the
jury through the order of
Rogers. While the Assistant
District Attorney who has been
remains untried, the case
Mr. Geoghan seems other-
wise complete. It is for the
jury to decide whether he will
defer calling on the Dis-
trict Attorney to answer the

report from London that
Lindgh and Mrs. Lindbergh are
expected to return to the United
States in September. This is inter-
esting, but certain questions
remain unanswered.

Questions given for the de-
fense of the Lindberghs were
that they were to escape from an es-
tablishing form of perse-
cution to end an official made
tious by the inexplicable
of certain New Jersey of-
ficials there any assurance
of Lindberghs could be
further harassment of this
they came back?

JUSTICE KERNOCHAN and the
Associate Justices of Special Ses-
sions in Manhattan, have freed
the two women arrested in a raid
on their studio where they were
charged with the high crime of
conducting duplicate contract
bridge games.

Justice Kernochan, who has
played contract bridge with Presi-
dent Roosevelt among others, was
convinced that the game is one of
skill and not gambling. The prose-
cuting attorney admitted that he
could find no one to uphold the
latter contention. It seems a pity
that the police cannot find more
important work to do before they
begin a crusade against contract
bridge.

ONE of the most striking state-
ments made by Thomas I.
Parkinson in his admirable ad-
dress before the Brooklyn Cham-
ber of Commerce yesterday was
a reference to the Mormon Church,
which, he said was preparing to
take care of its people when
Federal funds are exhausted.

Realizing that the present relief
expenditures cannot go on indefi-
nitely, the wise Mormon leaders
are taking steps now to forestall
the inevitable crisis that will come
when Government relief is cut
down. The Mormons are a re-
markable people and they know
that it took hard work to make
their valley "blossom like the rose."

ANOTHER five-to-four Supreme
Court decision on an issue in-
volving States' rights adds to the
confusion over what the Federal
Government can and cannot do to
help solve grave national problems.
This time Chief Justice Hughes
joined with the liberal minority.

The majority ruled out the law
passed in 1934 to permit cities and
other subdivisions of States to re-
duce their indebtedness through
Federal bankruptcy courts as a
violation of States' rights. It is
still constitutional, however, for
the Federal Government to lend or
give States, cities and counties
funds to help stave off defaults on
their indebtedness.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS would
have rejoiced in the achieve-
ment of young Leslie Pelletier, well-
educated astronomer, who has just
discovered his fifth comet through
an old six-inch telescope in a cow
pasture in Delphos, Ohio.

Adams, one of the greatest of
American minds, felt that astron-
omy was the subject best suited to
arouse an interest in science in the
new union. In 1843 there was not
an observatory in the United States
but a society was formed in Cin-
cinnati to start one and John
Quincy Adams, after serving as
President and later as a Representa-
tive, agreed to journey from
Massachusetts to Ohio to lay the
cornerstone. He was 77 at the time
and the strenuous journey brought
on the illness that killed him. But
he made many speeches on the trip
and to the last helped to spread
knowledge.

THE oath of the Black Legion
reads like something out of the
dark ages. Members were required
to swear allegiance to the order
which put it above all other con-
siderations of life or death, and
the purpose, as described by one
of the "chaplains," was "to tear
down, lay waste, despoil and kill
our enemies." Other choice bits
of demonology are revealed in the
pages of the organization accused
of conducting wholesale murders.

It seems terrible that such things
could happen in Michigan, but the
same day's news carried the charge
of one of the vice ring's victims in
New York that girls who betrayed
their overlords had their feet and
bodies burned and their tongues
slit! The Black Legion merely had
a different name for its fiendish
gang.

21-7398-A

R. E. JOSEPH

Black Legion Must Go, Says County Prosecutor

Duncan McCrea Says Members Claim Organization Is National in Scope

By DUNCAN C. MCCREA
Wayne County (Mich.) Prosecutor
Copyright, 1934, by United Press

DETROIT—The Black Legion must be broken if half the stories told by its members to my office are true.

I have asked for a conference between the state police, Justice Department officers and authorities from Indiana and Ohio to break up the black-hooded band, which its members claim is national in scope and includes persons of high and low degree.

The spreading inquiry was the outgrowth of the comparatively obscure killing of Charles Poole, shot in cold blood on the night of May 12.

STAGGERING FACTS

Facts disclosed since that date lagger the modern American mind. The organization appears to be a throwback to the whipping post, mountain feuds, night riders or the Spanish Inquisition. It has no place in American life.

The Legion is strongly anti-Catholic, anti-Semitic and stands for its own particular brand of Americanism that smacks of lynching. It is a dangerous institution.

FIGURES UNCERTAIN

We have no way of determining the exact membership of the organization. Those arrested say there are 1,000 in Wayne County alone, while estimates by investigators run as high as 135,000 for the state. We have no way of determining the extent of the band in other states.

The investigation has taxed my wits to the utmost. We not only are busy checking up on stories that are pouring in, but we must check up on the stories of the men who hold. We have been occupied in organizing the murder case against 13 men held.

The Black Legion has no place in America today. It must go.

Ballston Klan Aide Disavows Black Legion

No Connection Between Two, Says Federal Employee, Withholding Name

An official of the Ballston, Va., Klux Klan, one of the largest in the state, today said in his opinion that there was no connection between that organization and the Detroit Black Legion, now reaping notoriety in the headlines.

"We believe in law and order," the official, who asked that his name be withheld, said, "and we wouldn't tolerate such violence as reported from Detroit."

The official, who is a Federal employee, said he believed the Michigan vigilante organization had been given the name of KKK to discredit the Klan.

"It's an old story. We've had to contend with it before in Indiana and Louisiana when outlawing was blamed on the Klan by outside influences that tried to put black marks on our organization. In both cases, however, later investigations proved that the Klan had nothing to do with the violence," the official declared.

The Ballston Klan official was skeptical of the reported subversive activities of the Detroit group.

"Every unsolved crime on the police records is being blamed on them now," he said, "but I'm of the opinion most of it is propaganda and it will turn out to be false."

The Arlington County man said there was a Klan organization in Detroit but he didn't know of its activities.

The Ballston Klan will meet Thursday night at which time the activities of the Detroit group may be discussed.

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Boardman	.....
Chief Clerk	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Edwards	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Foxworth	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Joseph	.....
Mr. Keith	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Schilder	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

WASH. NEWS

BLACK LEGION REGALIA SEIZED
Guns in Terrorists' Homes



DETROIT POLICEMEN decked out in the hooded regalia of the Black Legion found along with weapons in raided homes of members of the organization blamed for at least one murder and suspected of others. The heavy leather whip was taken from the house of "Brigadier General" Ray Ernest, a State prison guard. International News Photo.

WASH. TIMES

APR 10 1936

TERRORISTIC BLACK LEGION'S GRIM ARSENAL

Assassination Its 'Cure' for 'Evil'



FIREARMS and regalia found in the headquarters of the hooded Black Legion of Detroit. Sixteen members of the weird cult are accused of having killed Charles A. Poole whose bullet-pierced body was found in a roadside ditch. They are said to have accused Poole, a former PWA worker, of having beaten his wife. This charge was apparently baseless. The authorities lay attempts to dominate a Michigan town election by threat to the region. International News Photos.



CHARLES A. POOLE

61-7397-A

May 26 - 1936

50

'BLACK LEGION' DEFENDED BY OHIO LEADER

Killing Deplored By
Effinger; Says Prin-
ciples 'Most Lofty'

LIMA, Ohio, May 26 (I.N.S.).—After eluding newspapermen for 24 hours, V. H. Effinger, 54-year-old salesman pictured by Michigan authorities as leader of the Black Legion in Ohio, Michigan and Indiana, today defended as "most lofty" the principles of the hooded society and denied any knowledge of the murder of a Detroit WPA worker charged to several of its members.

Effinger claimed the Black Legion has six million members but refused to reveal his connection with the organization or to amplify his typewritten formal statement which read:

"The Black Legion is a strictly secret society dedicated to the most lofty principles and stands for the highest form of American progress.

DEPLORES KILLING

"I know nothing whatever about the killing of anybody, in Detroit or elsewhere, by the Black Legion. The organization deplores anything of this nature. It stands wholly for law and order based on justice.

"An unlawful act that might be committed by one or more irresponsible persons claiming membership in any given organization certainly should not be justly construed as a reflection on the legitimate aims and purposes of such organization.

"The honorable and law-abiding members of the Knights of Pythias, the Knights of Columbus, the Odd Fellows and similar orders have never been made to suffer for the rash deeds of certain ill-reputed members of their own organizations, so why should we place the blame for the slaying of a man in Detroit on the membership of the Black Legion?"

WILL GO AHEAD

"The Black Legion has more than 6,000,000 members. It will go right ahead promoting the best interests of America and American citizens, despite the unfortunate affair in Detroit."

"When a few men let loose get the best of them and then kill a man, it is absurd to attempt to link such an act with an organization that has nothing whatever to do with such acts of this nature."

Effinger would not answer questions concerning activities of the Black Legion, or reveal his title in the order. He readily admitted he headed the Ku Klux Klan in Lima a number of years ago. He has lived here 20 years, was formerly an electrical contractor and later a salesman.

'Ladies' Au- Of Black L Is Reveal

JACKSON, Mich., (I.N.S.).—State police revealed existence of a "library" of the Black Legion riding terrorists.

A membership card, six those used by the men, were in the suitcase full of records papers belonging to Ray, suspended prison guard at Jackson, held as the alleged head of the clan here.

Lieut. Van A. Loomis, of Detroit police, who is aiding son county authorities in the activities, said the card bore name of Mary Ernest, 28, wife of Clarence Ernest, of Napoleon, brother of the suspended prison guard, and also Olive Ernest, wife of guard's wife.

MAY 26 1936

JOSEPH

No Black Legion!

POLICE CHIEF RAY ALLEN has taken the proper step in fixing the police division's policy as definitely against any effort of the so-called Black Legion to gain a foothold in Toledo.

Many rumors are about that this organization, whose operations first came to light with the reign of terror in Detroit, is recruiting members in this city and that for the initiation fee of \$3 anyone who fits the pattern can join.

We want none of the kind of invisible government this outfit suggests. Toledoans still have the unhappy memory of the tyranny of the Ku Klux Klan, and how its promoters cleaned up by enlisting "100 per cent Americans" in their dangerous scheme to control political offices. The ideal of service for K. K. K. was to intimidate and endanger anyone so unfortunate as to have been born in another country or born black or of a race that was anathema to these self-righteous, professional zealots.

The Ku Klux Klan was a racket, and it died because it didn't deserve to live, an organization thriving on intolerance. But chiefly it died because many of its organizers and promoters were racketeers making a fat living at the expense of unthinking, credulous persons.

These secret organizations thrive in election years. They prosper on strife by taking into their ranks those who are of a common mind on a certain phase of politics.

Now is a good time to squash the first signs of such an organization as the Black Legion, obviously a by-blow of the Ku Klux Klan, gaining a foothold.

Let the campaign be in the open. And let those promoters who hope to get rich thriving on the prejudices and the intolerance of a certain class, be warned to scram while the scrambling is good.

Mr. Clegg
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Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
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Mr. Tracy
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M. J. Ryan
13377

61-7398-A

Toledo News-See
May 26, 1936

Uncle Sam's New 'Specimen'



"The Black Legion" deals out its own masked mockery of "justice" with bullets.

Uncle Sam, in business for 160 years, has seen strange things developed in his Republic. Fortunately, that Republic is divided into 48 separate States, mistaken experiments of each not necessarily injuring any other.

Uncle Sam has seen Ku Klux Klan "Night Riders" burning barns and beating women; forceful Carrie Nation smashing barrooms; "Sockless Simpson" from Kansas, who wore no socks as a sign of "democracy." Uncle Sam has seen prohibition come and go, bringing bootlegging and leaving organized racketeering. He has seen queer, new religions start and some of them die. Now, in Detroit, he meets a new zoological specimen known as "The Black Legion."

This "Black Legion," which calls itself "100 per cent American," appears to be, in reality, "100 per cent masked murder."

The knights of the "Black Legion" feel it their duty to improve government and politics with bullets, NOT ballots.

16/64

Mr. Nease	
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W. S.

61-7398-A

New York Daily Mirror

MAY 25 1936

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Arrested members of this "Black Legion" confess that it has been their custom, when they thought a man had done wrong, to take him out, tie him to a tree, lash him as long as he could stand it. Recently, they went further: They "tried" and convicted, in their private quarters, a man accused of beating his wife. The man, apparently guilty, was not an admirable character. Wife-beating deserves punishment. But the "Black Legion," not satisfied with whipping this time, took the man out, stood him up, shot him dead. Arrested members confessed to this murder for "better government."

The wife of the dead man, Mrs. Charles A. Poole, who had a girl baby the day after her husband was butchered, now declares that he never beat or kicked her as alleged.

Important for Uncle Sam is the fact that his laws no longer seem to satisfy his people. Masked murderers of the "Black Legion" cast aside criminal law, and commit murder in the name of "justice." Eminently respectable gentlemen in Washington cast aside fundamental law, the Constitution, threatening to rewrite it, make it "up-to-date."

Between the gutter and the Capitol at Washington, Uncle Sam has several problems.

LAW PURSUES MYSTIC NIGHT RIDERS OF BLACK LEGION

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61-73981-A



PRISON GUARD DICE HAWLEY

After Paul Every was flogged to death last April police started an investigation into the crime. Hawley, a prison guard and co-

worker of the flogging victim, was questioned. State police now believe Every was killed by members of the Black Legion.

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Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Hache
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Mr. Lester
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There is ample justification-yea, necessity-for an expansion of the Federal police power to the end that we may stamp out mob violence just as we have stamped out kidnaping. In the last 54 years, lynch mobs have slain 5000 men and women. Since the spring of 1935, when a Senate filibuster shelved the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching law, there have been 25 actual lynchings and 117 attempted lynchings, narrowly averted.

61-7398-A

WASH. NEWS

M. E. JOSEPH

WIPE OUT THE WHOLE BROOD!



Mr. Nathan	✓
Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Baughman	✓
Chief Clerk	✓
Mr. Clegg	✓
Mr. Coffey	✓
Mr. Edwards	✓
Mr. Egan	✓
Mr. Foxworth	✓
Mr. Harbo	✓
Mr. Joseph	✓
Mr. Keith	✓
Mr. Lester	✓
Mr. Quinn	✓
Mr. Schilder	✓
Mr. Tamm	✓
Mr. Tracy	✓
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The Hartford Times
June 16, 1936
Forwarded by New York Office

61-7398-A

The Lure of Secret Societies in United States

BY FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

Once again there has appeared upon the American scene a secret society which has, in some localities, adopted terrorism as a political and social policy. Being a secret society, no one knows how extensive the membership of the Black Legion may be or in how many communities it is organized. The outstanding fact, however, is that such an organization does exist within the United States but not of the United States, within local communities but not of them. The secret order's existence is apart from the political and social organizations of the communities. They are excluded.

The desire of mankind to organize secret societies is wellnigh universal and is older than history. A philosophical psychologist could write a moving essay on this impulse. It exists in the child in point of years and in the child in point of historical evolution. A part of the play of children has always been secret organizations with mystic passwords and countersigns, and before the dawn of civilization primitive peoples had the same urge.

The Black Legion is but a manifestation of this ancient social principle. Various types of secret organizations have existed with widely different purposes. The high school and college fraternity may be regarded as wholly social, while the order of Freemasons is largely religious, with added social and eleemosynary features.

The Black Legion appears to resemble the Ku Klux Klan rather more than any other American organization of a secret nature. The original Klan was organized in the reconstruction days at the close of the Civil War in an effort to bring order out of the chaotic political and social conditions which the disturbed times had created. As they were taking the law into their own hands and also because of the desirability of vesting their actions in an air of mystery, they appeared disguised in striking costumes, their features covered in hoods. That these secret night riders performed a valuable service is recognized by historians. That some serious offenses were committed by some of them, under the cloak of the order's secrecy, has to be admitted.

Mention also should be made of the Vigilantes, especially those who operated in San Francisco in the hectic period following the discovery of gold. They were not a secret order in quite the same sense and they did not invariably mask. They resembled secret orders, however, in that their operations were swift and without warning. It is especially interesting to recall that the last operation of Vigilantes took place in New Orleans in 1891. Vigilance Committee took from the jail a group of Italian believed guilty of murder and understood to be members of the famous secret order, the Mafia, and lynched

The Mafia came into existence at the time of the Napoleonic wars. It became a secret society of the utmost danger. The members were opposed to the police and to all measures for the enforcement of public order. They preyed upon land owners, merchants and any other likely victims. An attempt was made to establish the order in the United States, and this led to the action at New Orleans. The Mafia had murdered Chief of Police Hennessy.

Another Italian secret society was the Camorra, which first became known about 1820 in Naples. The members were criminals who worked singly and in gangs. The order had a secret language and system of signals. Taking part in politics, the Camorra became dominant for a period, terrorizing the whole country. Princes and persons of high station became members, often, it is said, because they were forced to, to escape attack. It has been reported that individuals have been forced, in much the same manner, to join the Black Legion in this country. The Camorra was finally stamped out in 1911, but the Mafia continued to exist in secret until the Fascist regime took charge, following the World War. It is probable that there are still skeleton organizations which maintain the deepest secrecy as to their existence and which hope to re-establish themselves after a change in political conditions in Italy.

Africa is notable for the number of its secret societies among the natives. Not only in the Congo, but in other sections of the Dark Continent, secret orders have been in existence from the earliest times. They usually have some religious connection, but not always. For example, the Human Leopard Society—as the name is translated into English—is an organization of cannibals. There seems to be and to have been no people immune from the impulse to organize secret societies. Although there were never more than 3,000,000 Indians in North America at any one time, with, therefore, no problem of crowding or domination of congested regions, they had their secret societies.

The secret societies with the largest membership in the world is Chinese. It is the Hung, or Triad Society, which has been in existence for 1,500 years. This organization was founded in A. 186 by a Buddhist patriarch named Zhi. It appears that, originally, the chief purpose of the organization was to spread the Buddhist doctrine. It changed from being primarily a religious to a semi-political organization because of the effort of Chinese Emperors to stamp it out. When a secret order is well established, and especially when its membership conceives that a religious side is present, as well as social or political interests, eradication becomes practically impossible.

The effect of the persecution of the Triad Society was to intensify its secrecy with mystic rites of great solemnity. Authorities say that there is a fascinating analogy between the Buddhist-Taoist rites employed by the Triad and those described in the Egyptian "Book of the Dead." Moreover, it is stated, there is a close connection between both the Chinese and the Egyptian rituals and portions of the ritual of Occidental Freemasonry.

It is probable that the impulse to organize and to join secret societies springs from an indelible complex. The individual does not feel strong enough in his own personality to accomplish what he desires. He feels that, in addition to being illegal, some of his exploits would appear ridiculous. To throw the mantle of a mysterious secret society about himself and those with whom he is joined seems, temporarily at least, to put a different aspect on the matter.

Just as the child at play puts on a false face and feels quite important when he jumps from behind a door and cries "boo" at some one, so the member of the type of Ku Klux Klan which was organized after the World War and took part in politics, as well as pranks, or the member of the Black Legion, feels that he is not like other men. He can patronize entire communities because he knows the mumbo-jumbo of passwords and countersigns and, while cloaking his own real identity, can bring terror to persons who are not of the stock.

66-7398-A

WASH STAR

JUN 14 1936

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JOSEPH
Gandy

The Greatest Show On Earth

By Frank Miller Smith

THE BLACK MENACE

Travelling incognito Representative Samuel Dickstein has toured several cities for Black Legion clues. He has just returned to the Capitol, determined more than ever to push for a Congressional investigation. He goes before the Rules Committee next week.

Asked if he came into personal contact with any of them or if he had been warned to lay off he said:

"No, but it might happen any day. I didn't let them know I was around. They are a bad lot. A black menace.

"I am receiving thousands of appeals daily by letter and telegram to get at the bottom of this thing and save the country from this organization."

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